

Message Text

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E.O. 11652, GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SADAT'S "CORRECTIVE REVOLUTION"

EMBASSY CAIRO HAS ANALYZED THE RECORD OF EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT
SADAT FIVE YEARS AFTER HIS CONFIRMATION AS NASSER'S SUCCESSOR.
THE EMBASSY NOTES THAT SADAT HAS:

--INFUSED A NEW SPIRIT OF LIBERALISM AND RATIONALITY
INTO THE GOE; AND

--REPLACED NASSERIST POLITICAL REPRESSION WITH A SENSE
OF FREEDOM BASED ON "SOCIAL PEACE" AND "THE RULE OF
LAW."

ACCORDING TO THE EMBASSY, THESE CHANGES STEM FROM THE NEW
QUALITIES SADAT HAS BROUGHT TO EGYPTIAN POLITICS:

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--A REPUTATION FOR CREDIBILITY, QUESTIONED ONLY WHEN HE GLOSSES OVER THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS;

--REALISM IN IMPLEMENTING A RATIONAL, LONG-RANGE FOREIGN POLICY;

--CONSISTENCY IN PURSUING DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN OBJECTIVES, E.G., THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE STRATEGY; AND

--A DEVOTION TO DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES, DESPITE HIS OPPOSITION TO THE FORMATION OF "NEW CENTERS OF POWER" BY RIVAL GROUPS OF MINISTERS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE EGYPTIAN PUBLIC, HOWEVER, WORRIES MOST ABOUT THE FLOUNDERING ECONOMY AND THE GROWING GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR. IF THE PEACE PROCESS STALLS OR THE ECONOMY DOES NOT IMPROVE, THERE COULD BE TROUBLE FOR SADAT AND HIS ADVISORS. (CONFIDENTIAL) CAIRO 6962, 5/23.)

2. FRENCH SOUNDINGS ON ARMS FOR YAR

IN HIS FAREWELL CALL ON AMBASSADOR SCOTES IN SANA, THE FRENCH MILITARY ATTACHE RESIDENT IN DJIBOUTI:

--NOTED WITH INTEREST RECENT PRESS ARTICLES INDICATING THE US CONTEMPLATED PROVIDING THE YAR WITH OVER \$100 MILLION IN MILITARY HARDWARE; AND

--SAID HE UNDERSTOOD FRANCE WOULD HAVE A ROLE IN SUPPLYING ARMOR AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT.

THE AMBASSADOR, IN TURN:

--WELCOMED FRANCE AS A PARTNER IN SUPPORTING THE SAUDI MODERNIZATION PLAN FOR YEMEN; AND

--REVIEWED IN GENERAL TERMS THE STATUS OF CONGRESSIONAL SCRUTINY OF THESE SALES.

EMBASSY COMMENT: IF THE SAUDIS PLAN TO FILL THE YAR ARMOR
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AND SIGNAL REQUIREMENTS WITH FRENCH EQUIPMENT, WE BELIEVE A FRANCO-US DIALOGUE AT A SUITABLE LEVEL WOULD BE USEFUL TO COORDINATE OUR RESPECTIVE ROLES IN THIS PROGRAM. (CONFIDENTIAL) SANA 1741, 5/22.)

3. TURKEY: POLITICAL MALAISE DEEPENS

A NUMBER OF RECENT INCIDENTS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO A GROWING

MALAISE WHICH SEEMS TO BE SETTLING OVER TURKISH POLITICAL LIFE.

--YOUTHFUL SUPPORTERS OF THE NATIONAL SALVATION AND NATIONAL ACTION PARTIES (BOTH MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT COALITION) DISRUPTED HOLIDAY CEREMONIES MAY 19, VISIBLY UPSETTING PRESIDENT KORUTURK.

--THE PREMATURE RETIREMENT OF THE AIR FORCE COMMANDER AFTER CHANGES OF MISHANDLING FUNDS HAS FUELED RUMORS OF MORE SCANDALS IN THE MILITARY.

--AN OPPOSITION DEMOCRATIC PARTY SPOKESMAN HAS PUBLICLY SUGGESTED THAT CHIEF OF THE TURKISH GENERAL STAFF SANCAR SHOULD RESIGN.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE NATIONAL UNITY WHICH EXISTED AFTER THE 1974 CYPRUS INTERVENTION IS UNDER SEVERE STRAIN. PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SQUABBLING AMONG MEMBERS OF THE COALITION GOVERNMENT, THE OPPOSITION, THE PRESIDENT AND THE MILITARY MAY HAVE BEGUN TO UNDERMINE THE PUBLIC COMMITMENT TO REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY IN TURKEY. (CONFIDENTIAL) ANKARA 3992, 5/23.)

4. DUTCH CABINET SKATES PRECARIOUSLY ON

OUR EMBASSY AT THE HAGUE REPORTS THAT A NUMBER OF SERIOUS PROBLEMS BROUGHT THE COALITION GOVERNMENT OF PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL CLOSE TO A BREAKUP LAST WEEK. THE ISSUES DIVIDING LEFT-WING AND CATHOLIC MEMBERS OF THE CABINET INCLUDE:

--THE QUESTION OF EXPORT CREDIT GUARANTEES FOR DUTCH
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FIRMS INVOLVED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS IN SOUTH AFRICA;

--DECISIONS BY JUSTICE MINISTER VAN AGT (A CATHOLIC) TO INTRODUCE ANTI-SQUATTER LEGISLATION IN THE PARLIAMENT AND TO CLOSE DOWN AN ILLEGAL ABORTION CLINIC;
AND

--VARIOUS BUDGET PROPOSALS CUTTING BACK RISING SOCIAL EXPENDITURES WHILE TRYING TO MEET CONTINUING DEFENSE COMMITMENTS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: IT IS BY NO MEANS A FOREGONE CONCLUSION THE GOVERNMENT WILL FALL OVER ANY ONE OR A COMBINATION OF THESE ISSUES. NONE OF THE MAJOR PARTIES ARE READY TO FACE

THE ELECTORATE PREMATURELY. ALTHOUGH IT SEEMS PRETTY
CLEAR THE CABINET WILL DECIDE AGAINST EXPORT CREDITS IN
THE SOUTH AFRICAN CASE, IT MAY WAIT TO SEE HOW WASHINGTON
WILL DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) THE
HAGUE 2812, 5/23.) ROBINSON

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